

16. (Amended) A priming device for a detonator, comprising:  
an electrical power supply means for timing the action of a firing element of a  
primer; and  
power generating means for generating, through a resistive circuit, a current  
intensity sufficient to actuate the firing element upon expiration of a timing interval, the  
power generating means comprising a capacitor, switching means, and controlling means for  
controlling the switching means by allowing the capacitor to be charged for a charging time  
during the timing interval and then discharged, the discharge causing the firing element to act  
on the primer.

REMARKS

Claims 14-29 are pending. Claims 14 and 16 are amended. No new matter is entered.  
Accordingly, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Chambers during the February 12, 2002 interview, the Applicants' record of which is constituted by the remarks made herein.

Applicants appreciate the indication of claims 20 and 21 as allowable in item 9 of the Office Action if rewritten in independent form to include the features of any base and intervening claims. Applicants assert, however, that each of claims 20 and 21 depend directly or indirectly from an allowable claim 16 for at least the reasons cited herein. Accordingly, claims 20 and 21 remain in dependent form.

In item 3 of the Office Action, claims 14-19, 22, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Beukes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,659). The rejection is respectfully traversed.